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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07020 211134Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 079118
O 211051Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1556

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7020

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: FSO VISIT TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 206088, (B) SECTO 21003

1. CHARGE TELEPHONED PRIMIN KARAME AT 1000 LOCAL AUG 21 TO INFORM HIM OF FSO'S HOUGHTON AND MACK VISIT TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON. KARAME INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY OUR REASONS FOR SETTING UP THIS PROCEDURE FOR CONSULTING WITH CHRISTIANS, BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE PRESS REACTION TO EFFECT THAT THEIR VISIT SIGNALED U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF PARTITION. I OF COURSE REASSURED HIM THAT THE VISITS HAD NO SUCH MEANING AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO REACT TO SUCH PRESS INQUIRIES. KARAME SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE CONSULT, PARTICULARLY WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS, AND THAT HE HOPED THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS WOULD LEAD TO PROPOSALS TO SOLVE THE LEBANESE CRISIS. CHARGE INFORMED HIM THAT THESE OFFICERS WILL SIMPLY SEEK VIEWS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND THAT THEE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME. KARAME SAID THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD SOLIDIFY CHAMOUN'S CLAIM TO FOREIGN MINISTER PORTFOLIO. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE SENSITIVE TO THIS ISSUE AND THAT OUR OFFICERS WOULD DO NOTHING TO COMPLICATE THIS MATTER, BUT THAT OF COURSE CHRISTIANS MIGHT.
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07020 211134Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

2. CHARGE ALSO TELEPHONED SAEB SALAM AT 1100 HOURS AUG 21 AND PASSED SAME MESSAGE TO HIM. HE INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY AND HOPED THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE FRUITFUL. I MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE OFFICERS WAS BOB HOUGHTON, AND HE REMEMBERED HIM WELL AND ASKED THAT I PASS HIS RESPECTS TO BOB WHEN I WAS ABLE TO DO SO.
HUNT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760321-0111
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760832/aaaabbcd.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 206088, 76 SECTO 21003
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FSO VISIT TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, (MACK, DAVID L), (HOUGHTON, ROBERT B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006